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Keep Slicing the Pie

In the bright lexicon of the Great Society there is no such word as "omit." Everybody's gonna get a slice of that pie in the sky.

Now it is the "needy" artists who are to be the beneficiaries of a new subsidization delicacy being baked in the bureaucratic oven. As is usual in such undertakings, the recipe is not entirely clear, nor is the need for it. As a matter of fact, one artist who certainly wouldn't qualify, cartoonist Al Capp, the creator of Elmer Fudd and the other Dogpatchers, had this to say about it:

"A needy artist is an artist who produces stuff nobody needs."

But whether anybody needs it or not, the spenders will keep baking and slicing that pie, so long, at least, as the taxpayers keep supplying the dough.

The New Dateline: LBJ

The newest development in managed news is what Pentagon press officials have come to call the "Federation Press Service." PPS was born of President Johnson's directive to government information officers to spend more time producing favorable news about his administration and fewer stories displeasing to him. It thrives on the parallel edict that the White House shall have first call on credit for any news emanating from any department.

Bill Moyers, Presidential press secretary, explains the philosophy of the Federales Press Service as being that the President has a legitimate right to release any news involving him in any way, and that LBJ is involved in everything. It was an explanation that inspired veteran Washington correspondent Arthur Krock to remark — on seeing among some 42 "White House" news releases one day a scoop on the demographic aspects of the whooping crane — that it was his first intimation of Presidential involvement in the survival of that species.

In another example of the Johnsonian editorial technique, that part of a recent Commerce Department report citing a new all-time high in personal income was lifted for release under the White House imprimatur. The lugubrious statistics of a \$1 billion drop in farm income during August were left for the Department to make public.

Most of the capital press corps is laughing over such frantic image building; but behind the laughter is concern. Controlled news, no matter how ridiculous, is ever dangerous.

Opinions of Others

"... it does seem that the quickest way to solve local problems to create homes of dignity and neighborhoods of pride, would be to give the cities tax sources now pre-empted by the federal government and let them solve their own problems... because it is sometimes difficult to obtain the necessary finances locally for community betterment, the temptation to run down to Washington for the funds seems to be the easy way out, even though the community many times loses control of civic projects in the process. The fallacy of permitting more and more control of government to be centralized in Washington will become clearer in the days ahead." — *Clay (W. Va.) Messenger*.

"Much public discussion has centered about the fights and actions of conscientious objectors, including the draft card incendiaries... Ironically, there never has been any need for a genuine conscientious objector to burn anything. Like everyone else in this amazingly flexible society of ours, he has a place in the social structure even in wartime." — *Ontario (Calif.) Report*.

"This newspaper each day receives mail addressed to former employees, some of whom have (been) gone for years... one letter received from Washington, D. C., was addressed to a young man who moved from Carlsbad a dozen years ago. Another was addressed to a former society editor who has not been on the staff for 20 years. How much money is spent, and how much time wasted, in processing and mailing such literature?" — *Carlsbad (N.M.) Current-Argus*.

Morning Report:

Brr... Brr... it's cold these days but just a look at the new bathing suits for the ladies is enough to make a man's blood run hot. Nobody could wear one of the new models these days. She would turn into a blue icicle in a minute.

But come summertime, I suppose the beaches will be full of ladies in these new off-the-shoulder, fish-net outfits. The holes in the nets are big enough to trap a full-size salmon but still leave lots of room for fish eyes to peer in.

Of course the ladies don't have to worry about salmon. Nobody is going to wear such fragile garments into the surf. Too dangerous. And the men aren't going to get much swimming in either. Too busy staring on the beach.

Abe Mellinkoff



District Attorney Warns Against Tear-Gas Devices

By EVELLE J. YOUNGER
District Attorney

A number of persons have asked me recently about small objects containing "tear gas" and reputedly offering protection against robbers, rapists and others who menace law-abiding citizens.

The most frequent question concerns the effectiveness of this sort of device. But an equally pertinent question might be whether its use by ordinary citizens is legal.

The answer in both instances is no.

The law is very plain on this subject. Mere possession of a tear gas device by any unauthorized person is a felony, and the penalty could run to two years in a state prison and a \$2,000 fine.

Apparently there are two types of these so-called "weapons" on the market. One uses an aerosol-type substance, the other a genuine gas irritant. Both are about the size of an ordinary fountain pen.

The aerosol-type substance is gelatin, but it is atomized — that is, broken into such small particles that it looks like gas. This is essentially the process used for spraying insecticides. It is completely harmless.

Unfortunately, the criminal who attacks his victim on a dark street is much less vulnerable than a mosquito. One in 50 might be discouraged or scared off by something that stings his eyes. Most would merely become angry, and more violent than ever.

In our "Operation on Guard" seminars, and elsewhere, we have warned repeatedly against devices of this kind. They tend to give the user a false sense of security. He or she then neglects to do the elementary things that can really be effective — like calling for help or locking the car doors.

The booklet summarizing the seminar recommendations says this: "Every law enforcement agency is in agreement that it is best not to carry any weapon. The carrying of many types of weapons on your person or in your car could make you criminally liable under the deadly weapons control law... The criminal is usually only interested in escape. If you attack with a weapon, you put him on the defensive, and he may feel that he must kill to escape... Your best defense is a good lusty scream or loud continued shout for help. Run to the nearest lighted house, bang on the door and shout or scream."

Only a police officer should use tear gas.

The devastating use of

fire bombs in Watts last August generated a review of the arson laws, and it is plain that they're inadequate. Possession of a Molotov Cocktail — a bottle of gasoline with a wick to provide an explosion — is only a misdemeanor. Somebody who sets fire to a dwelling could serve only two years in prison. By contrast, a burglar convicted of breaking into a house could spend his entire life behind bars.

Clearly, the crime of arson needs some new laws and substantially stiffer penalties.

There has been considerable publicity lately about a dispute over medical commitment of narcotics users who are guilty of no crimes. We have a new law to cover initial detainment of these persons, but some doctors quarreled with its language. Also, they quite properly argued that there wasn't the necessary bed space in County Hospital.

Our staff is convinced that

the law is sound. What was needed, we felt, was a group of doctors who had dealt more widely with the problem and a place with more adequate accommodations. Now the Board of Supervisors has made the infirmary at the Sheriff's main jail available and the necessary personnel are being recruited. There appears good reason for hoping the problem is soon to be solved.

Out of a District Attorney's seminar, "Operation on Guard," giving advice on dealing with con men, bunco artists and more violent criminals, came a booklet with the same title. The first 8,000 copies were printed last month. They are all gone. Clearly, we will need many more, and we will have perhaps 25,000. Probably 250,000 would be more realistic, but that would need a public-spirited institution or individual. Our own budget could not finance anything like that number.

Mailbox

To the Editor:

Why build an auditorium to the tune of 3 to 5 million dollars (tax supported, of course)? For two, we will vote NO on this scheme.

Every high school has an auditorium. Why not use them? There was an auditorium in the center of Torrance and the officials broke an intestine until they sold it, as they wanted an auditorium in the civic center. There was a survey made about the auditorium to the tune of \$25,000 or more and then the committee did not like the suggestions. I think all of these surveys are a waste of the taxpayers' money. What is the matter with the city of Torrance engineers making their own surveys?

The auditorium that was in the center of Torrance stood empty 90 per cent of the time. I think the whole thing is ridiculous at this time. The property owners are already over-taxed the legal limit now.

It is either the federal government, the state, county, city, schools, or autos that all want more taxes. They continue to spend



money in the public sphere as though the sky was the limit.

The automobiles should not be taxed to pay for the rapid transit.

F. A. LINCOLN

Quote

"Communist Party followers here should be sent where they can bank in the brutal fruits of communism; not remain to contaminate our temples of learning." — Harry Pert, La Jolla.

"We may need a modern Lady Godiva to ride through Sacramento in order to bring about an increased public awareness of California's tax structure and its defects." — Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh.

"Mankind needs a generation that believes in brotherhood; unafraid to express itself courageously, armed with love, not animosity." — George J. Kohler, 21, San Francisco.

"It has been urged that half our scientists devote the next 20 years to the problem of creating life. Why all this effort to find out what most people already know how to do?" — Wayne H. Snowden, Berkeley.

"We complain about our youth; and yet we take away something very sacred, a respect and appreciation for God." — Virginia Pasini, San Francisco, on anti-school prayer drive.

JAMES DORAIS

American Indians Lack Freedom, Civil Rights

It is a strange paradox that at a time when the powers of the federal government are increasingly called upon to alleviate the disadvantages of the Negro race, no progress whatsoever is evident in achieving equal status for another minority — the American Indian — who has been a ward of the federal government since 1824.

In a recent issue of Saturday Review, the wife of a New Mexico school superintendent points out that during the year 1965, contracts totaling more than \$8 million have been let for the construction of segregated Bureau of Indian Affairs schools.

The Saturday Review writer charges that since its inception, the Bureau, which operates under the Secretary of the Interior, has operated under a set of paternalistic assumptions about the Indian that have resulted not in a participating citizenship for them but in the perpetuation of isolation, dependence on government charity, and the illusion of self-government through a cluster of quasi-

nations housed on government-granted enclaves throughout the country."

The complete power of the Bureau of Indian Affairs over the lives of members of this minority group is illustrated by the language of Public Law 474, enacted by Congress a few years ago, which authorizes the Navajo tribe to draw up a tribal constitution:

"The constitution shall authorize the fullest possible participation of the Navajos in the administration of their affairs as approved by the Secretary of the Interior and shall become effective when approved by the Secretary. The constitution may be amended from time to time... and the Secretary of the Interior shall approve any amendment which in the opinion of the Secretary of the Interior advances the development of the Navajo people..."

Under this act, tribal funds may be spent only upon approval of the Secretary of the Interior, and the tribe is prohibited from entering into an agreement with an

attorney involving tribal lands or funds.

There are, in the United States, approximately 550,000 Indians living on 286 separate land units. They are provided with schooling — mostly segregated and inadequate — social services, jobs, free medical and dental care. Their average income is vastly inferior to the average per capita income of the country as a whole. They are allowed to make virtually no decisions for themselves.

A clue to the lack of progress in the status of the American Indian minority after 140 years of government supervision can be found in the booklet "Answers to Questions About American Indians," published by the Department of the Interior. In the booklet, the junction of the government's trusteeship is described as protecting "the interests of minors and incompetents."

This is the very attitude the federal government, in the area of Negro rights, has been battling in most of the southern states.

ROYCE BRIER

Limitless Manpower Adds To Asia's War Potential

Defense Secretary McNamara, after his seventh visit to Saigon, announced an imminent increase of American manpower in Viet Nam. Current manpower is about 160,000.

This is the latest of several similar announcements since last summer, and the reason offered was that the antagonist had increased his manpower.

This leap-frog principle is historically dubious. It was invoked by the Germans and French in the first World War, and in a year ran into a Western Front stalemate. It was used by both sides in the Civil War, and was only effective for the Union when the Confederacy ran out of manpower.

There is, however, a corollary of the principle, and it involves Red China's manpower. None other than Caesar tested it. He had the siege engines and the Gauls didn't. But they had the manpower, and Caesar consumed nine years in subduing them.

We are in the same position vis-a-vis Red China. The

Peking People's Daily scorned McNamara. It said: "U.S. imperialism suffers greater defeats whenever it escalates the war... The more it gambles, the more it loses."

This, of course, is a far-away and fanatic opinion, but what is the larger logic of the situation posed? Like Caesar, we have the technology of the day. We have every sophisticated weapon known to man, and we command the air with bombers and helicopters.

The Viet Cong-North Viet Chinese guns, field guns, and grenades. They have no air power and their friends, the Red Chinese, have little air power. Their supply is primitive, though effective, as Mr. McNamara acknowledges.

But like the Gauls, our antagonists have a fanatic manpower in Indochina, and an unlimited manpower in Red China, should it be committed.

For the kind of war being fought, or likely to be fought, this potential man-

power seems sufficient. It is not only quantitative, but qualitative.

Our Asiatic antagonist is not appalled by the prospect of manpower loss in combat. To him, life is extremely cheap. Without a thought he will sacrifice a hundred men to gain an acre of land, a thousand to take a village. If he needs a million men in a campaign, and loses, he has a million replacements at hand.

We, who worry about a mortality of 250 in a week about one hour of mortality at the Battle of Shiloh, are thus at a marked disadvantage in Asia. We can physically overcome this handicap by employing nuclear weapons. But morally and politically, we can't. A couple of hydrogen bombs, and Genghis Khan would have a fair name in history compared with ours.

So McNamara, and all of us, appear to be stuck with the same kind of war we now have. But historical experience does not suggest it promises either victory or peace.

WILLIAM HOGAN

'The Lockwood Concern' Excites Old O'Hara Fan

This is our old friend, Julian English, the Gibbsville, Pa., car dealer and country club figure of "Appointment in Samarra," the turning up on the fringes of John O'Hara's new novel, "The Lockwood Concern."

This is a saga of a tough, prosperous old Pennsylvania family. The time span is approximately a century, but the main Lockwood story is played in the affluent 1920s, the period O'Hara enjoys writing about best.

After more than 30 years, an O'Hara fan feels he knows more than he wishes to know about the strengths, weaknesses, sexual and financial mores, educational and social patterns of upper class citizens of this place and time. I wish O'Hara would move along into the century and away from the triangle Harrisburg-Allentown-North Philadelphia. But this is O'Hara country, and these are his people, and his fans are no doubt stuck with them — Julian English included.

Yet the familiar sting, craftsmanship and almost sociological awareness of the time he deals with are here. This O'Hara awareness is

legendary (a gentleman's relations with his bootlegger; the dimensions of a Pierce-Arrow runabout; the fact Emil Coleman's orchestra is a must at any really important society ball).

O'Hara's narrative pulchritude is so strong that, irritated as I become with the arrogant, over-sexed, scheming George B. Lockwood (born 1873), I could not get away from him. O'Hara is as hypnotic as Coleridge's Ancient Mariner; his scenes remain sheer cinema.

Conversations as George confronts his amoral and prosperous son. His cool handling, after a scandalous murder-suicide, of funeral rites for his brother at the family plot. The rough, tender attempts of a lonely man to reach some relationship with his troubled and indifferent daughter. And the Lockwood concern — to achieve status as an important family but remaining over the decades merely rich, self-assured second raters.

O'Hara remains one of the most compelling writers of fiction in the business, as I discovered once more at 4 o'clock one morning last

week when this annoying, confused son-of-a-gun George B. Lockwood became aware, in a final scene: "Then soon — and always soon, no matter when — came the moment that no one has ever told anyone about. And no one will ever tell anyone about, because it is a secret that belongs to them."

If O'Hara elects to remain among the landed gentry in a southeastern Pennsylvania valley, his staunchest supporters have no alternative but to stay with him. In this age of great fakery and elaborate substitutes for competence in fiction, I am an unembarrassed O'Hara fan. This goes for "The Lockwood Concern," and I recommend it.

The Old Timer



"I'd wish the government was half as fussy how it spends money as it is about how I spend it."